

APSU Writing Center

Parts of an Essay

Parts of an Essay

Introduction

- **Hook or Attention Grabber**

- a compelling opening sentence or two that captures the reader's attention
 - **Example:** "Imagine standing at the edge of a once-vibrant forest, now reduced to a silent and desolate landscape. The birds have ceased their songs, and the rustling leaves have fallen silent..."

- **Background Information**

- explain why the topic is relevant, important, or interesting
- move from a general topic to a more specific one
 - **Example:** Climate Change → Climate Change and Its Impacts on Ecosystems

- **The Thesis Statement**

- introduces the purpose of the essay
 - will this essay argue, describe, narrate, or persuade?
- may give insight into the author's examples and evidence
- a concise and specific sentence or two that summarizes the main point or argument
 - **Example:** "Climate change is causing irreversible harm to ecosystems worldwide, endangering biodiversity and the delicate balance of nature."

- **Transition Sentence**

- provides a bridge from the introduction to the body paragraphs
- introduce a paragraph's topic and give it context within your piece as a whole
- links concepts together in chronological order in your essay
 - **Example:** "To fully comprehend the extent of this ecological crisis, it is imperative to delve into specific examples of how climate change is manifesting its destructive force on various ecosystems and the repercussions it carries for both the natural world and human societies."

Body Paragraph

- includes a more detailed explanation of your topic with supporting evidence

- **Topic Sentence**

- relates the discussion back to the thesis statement

- **Brief Explanation**

- explain why this paragraph's information is important to your topic

- **Supporting Evidence**

- includes examples, data, references, quotations, case studies, expert opinions, etc.
- make sure to include citations for each piece of evidence you include
 - **Example:** "According to a study published in the journal Nature Climate Change (Smith et al., 2020), rising ocean temperatures have led to extensive coral bleaching events in the Great Barrier Reef, causing severe damage to this iconic ecosystem."

- **Analysis**

- how your evidence relates to your main point (insight, explanation)

- **Transition Sentence**

- works as a bridge to connect one paragraph to the next

APSU Writing Center

Parts of an Essay

Parts of an Essay

Conclusion

- a brief summary of what was discussed in the essay
- **Restate your thesis in a different way**
 - reinforce the central argument
 - **Example:** “In a world increasingly marked by the undeniable impacts of climate change on ecosystems and biodiversity, the imperative for urgent, collective action to preserve the delicate balance of nature has never been clearer.”
- **Review the main points**
 - summarize the main takeaways and key topics
- **Emphasize Importance**
 - repeat why your audience should care or take action
 - give your audience something to think about

Essay Outline

- Introduction
 - Hook
 - Background Information
 - Thesis Statement
 - Transition Sentence
- Body
 - Topic Sentence
 - Brief Explanation
 - Supporting Evidence
 - Analysis
 - Transition Sentence
- Conclusion
 - Restated Thesis Statement
 - Summarized Main Points
 - Call to Action